

## NEWS RELEASE



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# Iowa Finance Authority Recognizes 2015 Banker of the Year and Top Lenders

## Iowa lenders recognized for advancing opportunities for beginning Iowa farmers

DES MOINES – The Iowa Finance Authority today announced the 2015 Iowa Agricultural Development Division (IADD) banker of the year and top lenders through the Beginning Farmer Loan program. The IADD Top Banker and Top Lender awards recognize the top loan officer and banks with the most loans and the largest total loan amount through the Beginning Farmer Loan Program.

### Banker of the Year

Eric Haveman of American State Bank in Hull was named the 2015 IADD Banker of the Year. Haveman closed the most loans in 2015 by assisting five beginning farmers with loans totaling over \$1.16 million through the Beginning Farmer Loan Program. Haveman has previously been honored with this award in 2012 and 2014.

### Top Lenders

- Brian Messer, Farmers Savings Bank, Wever: \$1.12 million
- Dave Hochstetler, Hills Bank & Trust, Kalona: More than \$1 million
- Hills Bank & Trust, Kalona: \$1.3 million
- U.S. Bank, Boone: \$1.15 million

“The Iowa Finance Authority is proud to work in partnership with IADD lenders throughout the state to make the dream of a career in agriculture a reality for many Iowans,” said Iowa Finance Authority Executive Director Dave Jamison. “The top lenders honored today have excelled in advancing opportunities for farmers at the onset of their careers in 2015 and we look forward to working with them to establish many more beginning farmers in the years to come.”

“It can be difficult for beginning farmers to access necessary capital to start a farming operation,” said Eric Haveman of American State Bank in Hull. “I’ve been fortunate enough to help bridge that financing gap for many through the IADD’s financing program. I encourage any Iowan interested in beginning a farming operation to look into these unique programs.”

The Iowa Beginning Farmer Loan Program provides low-interest loans to assist new farmers in acquiring agricultural property. Beginning Farmer Loans are financed by participating lenders or contract sellers with federal tax-exempt bonds issued by the Iowa Finance Authority. The interest received on contract sales or direct loans by individuals is also exempt from state income taxes.

The IADD offers several other programs that offer benefits to beginning and retiring Iowa farmers, more information is available at [IowaFinanceAuthority.gov/IADD](http://IowaFinanceAuthority.gov/IADD).

*The Iowa Legislature created the Iowa Finance Authority, in 1975 to undertake programs to assist in the attainment of housing for low- and moderate-income Iowans. Since then, the Iowa Finance Authority’s role has grown to include nearly 40 affordable housing, water quality and agricultural development programs.*